

## **FISH AND GAME COMMISSION MEETING**

**Public Hearing 7:00 p.m. Wed., Apr. 23, 2003**

**Red Lion Motel, Lewiston, ID**

Meeting called to order 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Irby.

1. Bob Jones, Terri Binkly, Idaho Hunters Feeding the Hungry, wants to organize donation and distribution of wild game to the needy through local churches, food banks, etc. wants to be the single organization responsible for distributing game to the needy. Idahohunters.org part of a national organization of hunters and farmers.
2. John Barker, Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation, presents a report commissioned by the Foundation on the economic impact of the 2001 salmon season in Idaho. The amount generated by the fishery for river communities was \$46,262,752 and to the state in general of \$43,617,263 for a total of \$89.8 million dollars. Direct expenditures accounted for 13 percent of the annual sales of the town of Riggins. In Lewiston, about \$8 million was spent, Orofino, \$7 million. In comparison, the salmon season has about the same percentage (the same importance) for Riggins as the Potlatch plant has for Lewiston.
3. John Carlson with a Survey of Hunters' Attitudes on Elk Management in the Clearwater Region. Suggests a random sample of 1,000 Clearwater elk hunters for their attitudes and background, and to follow up with recommendations to management agencies. He is a past director of the Uof I survey unit.
4. Jim Hagedorn, Viola, Concerned Hunters of Idaho. Thank you for maintaining the Clearwater deer tag. Wants to follow up on offer of cooperation to work with the dept. on studies/solutions to problems with mule and whitetail deer herds. Requests that any changes to the mandatory report system be weighed against the chances to damage the system.
5. Joseph Peterson, Flying B outfitter appreciates the changes made at conference call to liberalize bear seasons in the Clearwater. Thinks preference points may allow people to know when they are going to get a tag. Thinks nonresidents are overlooked in public input process. If there are not enough salmon to support a season, we should err on the side of the resource. On canned hunts, does not agree with them but does believe in right of private landowner to do what they want on their property. Landowner appreciation program no longer demands public access. Does not agree that allowing outfitters to lease land for hunting is locking out the public because it is members of the public who pay for the hunts. Does not agree that FG should be allowed to lease land for hunting (Access Yes) if outfitters cannot.
6. Sonny Harriston, Peck, owns a bird shooting preserve that raises 48,000 pheasants. Raising the birds with blinders requires poking a hole through the

nostrils and they are required to toe-clip the bird for identification. Wants to use the nostril passage for identification to save on labor costs. Also wants to open a preserve within ½ mile of Heyburn state park, while statute says there must be a mile unless Fish and Game gives a variance.

7. John Walters, Calder. Bear bait permits would be more accessible if they were sold through vendors. Thinks mountain lion seasons in units seven and nine should not be cut back six weeks when unit ten is going to be a two-cat area. Supports the preserve proposal for Heyburn.

Adjourn 8:00 p.m.